

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Heinz EICHER

**Continuation Application of S.N. 10/697,569
filed October 31, 2003**

Appln. No: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Concurrently

For: DEVICE FOR LETTING OFF RESIDUAL
STEAM AND WATER FROM THE
HEATING UNIT OF A HOT BEVERAGE
MACHINE

Prior Art Unit: 1761

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Atty. Docket No: 31496-201080 RK

Customer No:

26694
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

In order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is notified of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

Each document is cited in the German Search Report, where their relevance is indicated.

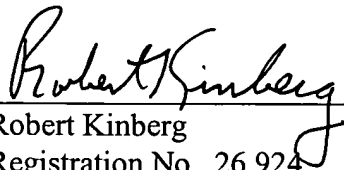
In view of the above, no further translation or statement of relevance is required, and as all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and all official guide lines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the documents and make them of record.

Inventor: Heinz EICHER
Atty. Docket No: 31496-201080 RK

Please charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this
Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 30, 2004


Robert Kinberg
Registration No. 26,924
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4800
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

RK/trt

DC2DOCS1\535652

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	NOT YET ASSIGNED
Filing Date	Concurrently
First Named Inventor	Heinz EICHER
Prior Group Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Prior Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	31496-201080 RK

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ₆
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	AA	DE	195 26 593		TREBITZ et al.	1/30/1997		
	AB	DE	42 08 854		VETTERLI	9/23/1993		
	AC	DE	195 49 227		KLAUWUHN et al.	7/3/1997		

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

VENABLE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RK/trt

DC2DOCS1\535657